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State of Illinois  
Illinois State Police

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# Illinois Winter Survival Guide

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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Illinois State Police



# TAKE YOUR TIME ...

- Check Illinois road conditions at [www.gettingaroundillinois.com](http://www.gettingaroundillinois.com) before you leave, or call the Winter Road Conditions Hotline at 1-800-452-4368 for valuable travel information, which is continuously updated.
- Choose main routes and be rested and alert.
- Make someone aware of your routes, and if your plans change, let someone know. Check in when you've reached your destination.
- Remember, cell phone coverage is not available in many remote areas.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full.
- Clear any snow, ice or frost from windows, lights, hood, heater and air inlet vents (don't forget mirrors and wipers).
- Do not drive with the heater in recirculation mode; it can increase humidity.
- Drive with your lights on and reduce your speed.





# USE THESE TIPS TO PREVENT SLIPS

Adjust your driving for the conditions; if there is ice or snow on the road, you must take extra precautions.

- Don't use cruise control in wet, icy or snowy weather.
- Position your hands on the steering wheel at 9 o'clock and 3 o'clock.
- If you lose traction, gradually slow down – don't slam on the brakes!
- Steering, braking and accelerating smoothly are key to maximum vehicle control on slippery surfaces. Steer just enough to follow the path you intend (most people steer too much or too fast).
- Be ready to handle potentially dangerous situations by thinking ahead about your options, such as controlling your speed and changing lanes.
- Use extra caution when driving on bridges or concrete highways – ice forms first on these surfaces.
- Avoid driving through snowdrifts; they may cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- Slow down in advance of shaded areas (especially curves) where ice and snow are the last to melt.



# WATCH OUT FOR SNOWPLOWS

Remember...snowplows are covered under Scott's Law, the "Move Over Law", which mandates that when approaching any emergency vehicle stopped along the roadway, you must:

- Proceed with due caution
- Change lanes if possible
- Reduce your speed



Following a snowplow too closely can be dangerous. Give them room.

## DURING A WINTER STORM

### IF STRANDED IN A CAR...

**Remain in your vehicle where rescuers are most likely to find you!** Turn your lights on flashing, hang a piece of cloth or distress flag from the radio antenna or window, or display a trouble sign.

When the engine is running, open a window slightly. This will protect you from carbon monoxide. You may need to clear snow away from the car's exhaust pipe.





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## BE PREPARED!

During winter months, use this handy checklist to make sure you're prepared every time you take a trip.

- ☐ Tools: jack, lug wrench
- ☐ Shovel
- ☐ Bottled water
- ☐ Road maps
- ☐ Extra warm clothes, boots, hat and gloves
- ☐ Ice scraper and snow brush
- ☐ Cell phone and car adapter
- ☐ Flashlight with fresh batteries
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Matches or lighter
- ☐ Battery jumper cables
- ☐ Extra food
- ☐ Blanket/sleeping bag(s)
- ☐ Paper towels
- ☐ Pocket knife
- ☐ Extra washer fluid

***To schedule a  
traffic safety program for  
your school or group  
please contact the  
Safety Education Unit at  
(217) 524-2525 or your  
Illinois State Police  
District Headquarters.***

# STATE POLICE DISTRICT OFFICES

DISTRICT	NUMBERS
<b>1 Sterling</b> 3107 East Lincolnway, 61081-1712	815/632-4010
<b>2 Elgin</b> 777 South State Street, 60123-7689	847/931-2405
<b>District Chicago</b> 9511 W. Harrison St., Des Plaines, 60016-1562	847/294-4400
<b>5 Lockport</b> 16648 South Broadway Street, 60441-9546	815/726-6377
<b>6 Pontiac</b> Post Office Box 498, 61764-0498	815/844-1500
<b>7 East Moline</b> 800 Hillcrest Road, 61244-1161	309/752-4915
<b>8 Metamora</b> 1265 Lourdes Road, 61548-9028	309/383-2133
<b>9 Springfield</b> 801 S. 7th St., Ste. 100-M, P.O. Box 19461, 62794-9461	217/786-7107
<b>10 Pesotum</b> U.S. 45 South, P.O. Box 110, 61863-0110	217/265-0050
<b>11 Collinsville</b> 1100 Eastport Plaza, 62234-6116	618/346-3990
<b>12 Effingham</b> 401 Industrial Avenue, Suite A., 62401-2835	217/347-2711
<b>13 DuQuoin</b> 1391 South Washington St., 62832-3841	618/542-2171
<b>14 Macomb</b> 1600 N. Lafayette Street, 61455-9194	309/833-4046
<b>15 Downers Grove</b> 2700 Ogden Avenue, 60515-1703	630/241-6800
<b>16 Pecatonica</b> 16450 West State Road, 61063-9202	815/239-1152
<b>17 LaSalle</b> IL Rt. 351 North, 61301-1047	815/224-1171
<b>18 Litchfield</b> 102 IL Rt. 16, 62056-1574	217/324-4900
<b>19 Carmi</b> 919 IL Highway 14, 62821-2309	618/382-4606
<b>20 Pittsfield</b> Post Office Box 32, 62363-0032	217/285-2034
<b>21 Ashkum</b> Post Office Box 147, 60911	815/698-2395
<b>22 Ullin</b> 1154 Shawnee College Road, 62992-2113	618/845-3740

**1 (800) 255-3323 (TDD)**



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